

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner required an election of the species and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. Applicant hereby traverses the Examiner's reasons for restricting the present application, since it is believed that all of the Figures show only one distinct group of surgical clamps. However, in order to further prosecution, Applicant hereby elects Group I for pursuit in this application while reserving the right to pursue the claims in Groups II and III in divisional applications.

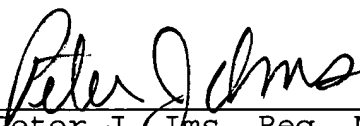
Applicant elects claims 1-24 and 26-30. Independent claims 1, 9, 15, 21 and 27 read on species I. Dependent claims 25 and 31 in the current application define the invention as requiring species II or species III type surgical clamps, and therefore are hereby canceled. The application currently includes claims 1-24 and 25-30.

It is believed that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action. Consideration and allowance of the claims in Group I are respectfully requested.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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